

Tribe posts would be taken care of when fresh recruitment is done in future.

Co-operative Bank of India

1295. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have proposed to grant licence to Co-operative Bank of India; and
- (b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that a society by the name 'National Co-operative Bank of India' has sought a licence to conduct banking business. RBI has further informed that grant of such a licence will require amendment of the Banking Regulation Act.

Industrial Backward Regions

1296. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that disparity between backward regions and developing regions has increased manifold and backward regions in many States continue to remain backward inspite of Government's incentives for setting up of industry in backward regions due to lack of proper infrastructure facilities;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering a fresh package of incentives for backward regions and workout effective and pragmatic strategies for industrialisation of backward regions and removal of imbalance in inter-regional growth; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). The Government is aware that because of lack of infrastructure facilities, some regions have remained industrially backward. The Government, therefore, is facilitating promotion of more investment in infrastructure, both in public and private sector. Besides the implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes like the Transport Subsidy Scheme, the Growth Centre Scheme and the Integrated Infrastructural Development Scheme, the Government has recently announced various fresh initiatives for accelerated development of North-Eastern Region, which is one of the most backward regions of the country.

Foreign Direct Investment in Small and Medium Sector

1297. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering a

proposal to make foreign direct investment in small and medium sectors attractive and also use this segment of industry for sourcing semi or fully finished goods for international markets;

- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith number of reserved categories and items reserved for small scale sector and extent of dereservation proposed;
- (c) the likely impact of the proposed changes; and
- (d) the reaction of small scale sector to the proposed dereservation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir. Presently, equity investment in small scale industries by domestic or foreign companies is limited to 24 per cent. On account of investment limits in plant and machinery, extent of foreign direct investment in the small scale sector is negligible.

(b) to (d). Presently, there are 836 products reserved for production in the small scale sector. Large companies, whether domestic or foreign can undertake manufacture of reserved items, only if they undertake an export obligation of a minimum of 75 per cent of annual production. The list of reserved items has remained the same since July, 1989.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

Annual Report and Review on the working of Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute, Saharanpur for 1995-96 etc.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table.

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute, Saharanpur, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute, Saharanpur, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-662/96]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) :-
- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Industry for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-663/96]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the HMT Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Industry, for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-664/96]

(iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Yantra Nigam Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Industry, for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-665/96]

Coinage Standard Weight and Remedy of Commemorative coins of one hundred rupees (containing silver fifty percent, copper forty percent, nickel five percent and Zinc five percent) fifty rupees, Ten rupees and two rupees (containing copper seventy - Five percent and nickel twenty five percent) coined in the memory of "Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel" Rules, 1996 etc.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy of the Coinage Standard Weight and Remedy of Commemorative Coins of One Hundred Rupees (containing Silver Fifty percent, Copper Forty percent, Nickel Five percent and Zinc five percent), Fifty Rupees, Ten Rupees and Two Rupees (Containing Copper Seventy-five percent and Nickel Twenty-five percent) coined in the Memory of "Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel" Rules, 1996 (Hindi and English Versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 485(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th October, 1996, under sub-section (3) of section 21 of the Coinage Act, 1906.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-666/96]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:-

(i) The Adhoc Exemption Order No. 92 dated the 25th June 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Adhoc Exemption Order No.114 dated the 21st April, 1995.

(ii) The Adhoc Exemption Order No.99 dated the 28th June, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to Plant and Machinery etc. required for the setting up of an Ammonia Plant Replacement Project at Udyogmandal for supply of Ammonia to the fertilizer Plants from the whole of the basic and additional duties of customs leviable thereon.

(iii) The Adhoc Exemption Order No. 105 dated the 14th July, 1996 together with

an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the adhoc exemption order No. 139 dated the 25th June, 1993.

(iv) The Adhoc Exemption Order No. 112 dated the 8th July 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption on import of specified equipments required for Jeypore-Gazuwake HVDC back-to-back transmission project of M/s. Power Grid Corporation of India from the whole of the basic and additional duties of customs leviable thereon.

(v) G.S.R. 274(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th July, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 12/96-Cus., dated the 11th March, 1996.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-667/96]

(3) A copy of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Second Amendment) Rules, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) Published in Notification No. G.S.R. 509(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th November, 1996, under section 77 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-668/96]

(4) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 406(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th September, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 266/67-CE, dated the 28th November, 1967, under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-669/96]

Review on the working of and Annual Report of Tea Trading Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta for 1994-95 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Tea Trading Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1994-95.

(ii) Annual Report of the Tea Trading Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.